



Centre for the Study of the

Legacies of British Slave-ownership

www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs

Newsletter December 2019

LBS database update

Our online database has been frozen since January 2019 for [various reasons](#), not least to enable a stable set of results and statistics to be generated from interrogating it. We have, however, been continually adding, amending and correcting entries throughout the year and these resulting changes will be uploaded to the website in early January 2020. For example, we have added over 12,000 more slave-owners, summarised hundreds more wills and incorporated information from members of the public in a further 600 biographical entries. We will release a newsletter in January giving a fuller description of the new data.

Memorial 2007

The Memorial 2007 Annual Lecture will be held on Tuesday 10 December at 6.30pm at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WE1B 5DR. The speaker will be Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement. The title of her talk is 'Hidden Radicalised Voices'. Tickets cost £6. For more information, see [here](#).

[Memorial 2007](#) is a volunteer group dedicated to erecting a national memorial to commemorate enslaved Africans and their descendants on a site in the Rose Gardens of London's Hyde Park. In Les Johnson's sculpture, each of the figures represents a part of the slave story: Before Europeans; Capture; Sold; Slave labour; Europe prospered; Resistance; and Legacy. In the full size statue, the figures will be 7 ft. high and the overall sculpture height will be 14 ft.

Memorial 2007 proposes that the site will become a place for reflection and education. For a short film about the project see [here](#). There is an [online petition](#) you can sign calling on the UK Government to support the project. To make a donation yourself see [here](#).



Maquette of Lee Johnson's proposed statue



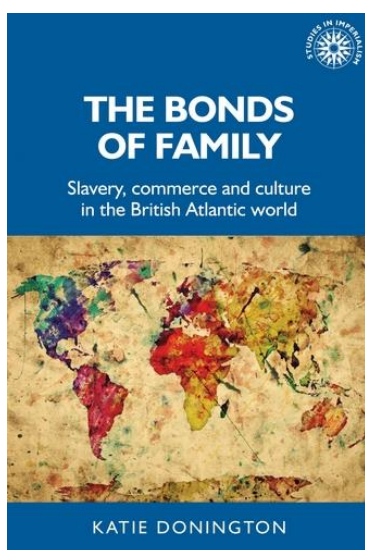
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The Bonds of Family



Katie Donington's new book [*The Bonds of Family*](#) reconstructs the world of commerce, consumption and cultivation sustained through the extended engagement of the Hibberts with the business of slavery. Across the generations, the Hibberts' family interests spread from cotton manufacture in northern England to slave factorage and then the plantocracy in Jamaica, to absentee slave-ownership, the House of Commons, philanthropy and cultural refinement in London. It is both the intimate narrative of a family and an analytical frame through which to explore Britain's history and legacies of slavery.

[Katie's publications](#) are available free to download through LBSU's open access website, including an edited, wide-ranging [set of essays](#) on the impact of the transatlantic slavery in Britain and her [chapter](#) in the Legacies of British Slave-ownership book.

The Freedom of Speech

Miles Ogborn argues in his new book [*The Freedom of Speech*](#) that across the Anglo-Caribbean world the fundamental distinction between freedom and bondage relied upon the violent policing of the spoken word. His book offers a rich interpretation of oral cultures that both supported and constantly threatened to undermine the slave system.

Oath-taking, evidence-giving, cursing, politicking, sermonising, praying and prescribing healing remedies all throw light on who could speak, where, when, and what about. For a broader discussion, see Miles's entry in the latest [LBS blog](#).

